

# Project wildlife report

**PROJECT NAME:** Ewing Fuels Reduction project

**DATE:** April 19, 2018

**TO:** Dan Ostmann, project lead

**FROM:** Mark Goldsmith, Wildlife Biologist

## 1. Federally-listed Threatened or Endangered species:

Only one terrestrial wildlife species (northern spotted owl) is federally listed for the project area and potentially affected by project activities (Appendix A). All other species are eliminated from further consideration in this analysis. The potential effects I analyze regarding this species are:

- Disturbance and direct harm from noise, smoke, or other activity related to project implementation.
- Modification or removal of suitable habitat resulting in indirect effects.
- Effects to physical and biological features (PBFs) of designated Critical Habitat.

### *Disturbance/Habitat Modification:*

There is no vegetation suitable for northern spotted owls as nesting/roosting or foraging habitat, and none within 0.25 miles of project units. Therefore, no direct harm/injury or disturbance to this species is expected to result from project activities, and no suitable habitats will be modified.

### *Critical Habitat:*

The project area is not within currently designated Critical Habitat for the northern spotted owl, and the proposed action will have no effect on designated Critical Habitat for this species.

## 2. Forest Service Sensitive Species:

I considered a complete list of Shasta-Trinity National Forest Sensitive wildlife species for this analysis (Appendix B). Potential effects I analyzed are modification or removal of suitable habitat, disturbance and direct harm. The determination criterion is the potential for project activities to cause a trend toward federal listing (under the Endangered Species Act). Activities that may affect a species or its habitat, but are not likely to cause significant disruption to reproductive success on the part of individuals or patterns of reproductive success on the part of larger populations, will not affect the demographic patterns of the species and will not cause a trend toward federal listing. Although individuals may be affected, federal listing is considered at a population level.

In summary, the proposed action is very limited in scope and scale, and the proposed activities (principally prescribed fire and removal of small-diameter trees) are more likely to enhance than to (minimally) degrade habitats. Potential disturbance or direct harm will

be limited by resource protection measures and the by limited nature of the project. As a result, these activities will not cause a trend toward federal listing for any Forest Service Sensitive species.

**3. Forest Service Survey and Manage species:**

Appendix C contains a complete list of Survey and Manage wildlife species on this Forest, and a brief assessment of potential project effects. The Forest wildlife database contains no records of any Survey and Manage wildlife species in or near the proposed treatment area.

In summary, project activities are very limited in intensity, and little effect to canopy cover is expected to occur. Extensive riparian protections have been incorporated into the project design, which will greatly decrease potential effects to Survey and Manage species. As a result, project activities are highly unlikely to have any meaningfully measurable effect on the life requirements of any Survey and Manage species or their persistence in this area.

**4. Management Indicator Assemblages:**

In summary, because of the limited size of the project area and extent of habitat alteration, no significant effects to any of the wildlife management assemblages are expected to result from this project. The proposed action will not meaningfully affect existing habitat components for any Management Indicator Assemblages, and will thus have no measurable effect on any assemblages.

**5. Migratory Birds:**

Potential effects to migratory birds and their habitats have been minimized through project design, integrated resource protection measures, and adherence to Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines and the Aquatic Conservation Strategy. As a result, the proposed action will have no meaningfully measurable effect on populations of migratory bird species.

**6. Compliance with law, regulation, policy, and the Forest Plan**

This project is in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and policies, including: the National Environmental Policy Act; federal Endangered Species Act; Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act; Migratory Bird Treaty Act; Forest Service Sensitive Species, and Survey and Manage programs; and all aspects of the Shasta-Trinity National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

**References**

Duncan, Nancy (Editor); Thomas E. Burke; John S. Applegarth; and Ted R. Weasma. 1999. Management Recommendations for Survey and Manage Terrestrial Mollusks. Version 2.0. USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management. October 1999. 305 pp.

USDA Forest Service. 1995. Shasta-Trinity National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan. Shasta-Trinity National Forests, Redding CA.

USDA Forest Service; USDI Bureau of Land Management. 1994. Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl; Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl.

USDI Bureau of Land Management. 1999. Field Guide to Survey and Manage Terrestrial Mollusk Species from the Northwest Forest Plan. BLM Oregon State Office.

## Appendix A – Federally Threatened/Endangered wildlife species

Species name	Status	Reason for Determination or Elimination of Consideration
Northern spotted owl ( <i>Strix occidentalis caurina</i> )	Threatened	No effect. No suitable habitats within 0.25 mi. of project activities. No Critical Habitat is present in the affected areas, and no impacts to Critical Habitat.
Gray wolf ( <i>Canis lupus</i> )	Endangered	No effect. Project not within known species range, or close enough to result in effects.
Yellow-billed cuckoo ( <i>Coccyzus americanus</i> )	Threatened	No effect. Project not within known species range, or close enough to result in effects.
Conservancy fairy shrimp ( <i>Branchinecta conservatio</i> )	Endangered	No effect. No suitable habitat.
Vernal pool fairy shrimp ( <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> )	Threatened	No effect. No suitable habitat.
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp ( <i>Lepidurus packardii</i> )	Endangered	No effect. No suitable habitat.

## Appendix B – Forest Service Sensitive wildlife species

Scientific Name	Common Name	Rationale for Determination
BIRDS		
<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Northern goshawk	Potential effects very minimal. May impact individuals but will not cause a trend towards federal listing or a loss of viability.
<i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>	Yellow rail	Project not within known species range, or close enough to result in effects.
<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	Willow flycatcher	Potential effects very minimal. May impact individuals but will not cause a trend towards federal listing or a loss of viability.

<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	Potential effects very minimal. May impact individuals but will not cause a trend towards federal listing or a loss of viability.
<b>MAMMALS</b>		
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	Pallid bat	Potential effects very minimal. May impact individuals but will not cause a trend towards federal listing or a loss of viability.
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Townsend's big-eared bat	Potential effects very minimal. May impact individuals but will not cause a trend towards federal listing or a loss of viability.
<i>Gulo gulo luteus</i>	North American wolverine	Project not within known species range, or close enough to result in effects.
<i>Martes Americana</i>	American marten	No suitable habitat.
<i>Martes pennanti pacifica</i>	Pacific fisher	Potential effects very minimal. May impact individuals but will not cause a trend towards federal listing or a loss of viability.
<i>Myotis thysanodes</i>	Fringed myotis	Potential effects very minimal. May impact individuals but will not cause a trend towards federal listing or a loss of viability.
<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>		
<i>Hydromantes shastae</i>	Shasta salamander	No suitable habitat.
<i>Rana aurora aurora</i>	Northern red-legged frog	Project not within known species range, or close enough to result in effects.
<i>Rana boylei</i>	Foothill yellow-legged frog	No suitable habitat.
<i>Rana cascadae</i>	Cascades frog	No suitable habitat.
<i>Rhyacotriton variegatus</i>	Southern torrent salamander	No suitable habitat.
<b>REPTILES</b>		
<i>Clemmys marmorata marmorata</i>	Northwestern pond turtle	Potential effects very minimal. May impact individuals but will not cause a trend towards federal listing or a loss of viability.
<b>TERRESTRIAL INVERTEBRATES</b>		
<i>Bombus occidentalis</i>	Western bumblebee	Potential effects very minimal. May impact individuals but will not cause a trend towards federal listing or a loss of viability.
<i>Juga nigrina</i>	Black juga snail	Project not within known species range, or close enough to result in effects.
<i>Lanx patelloides</i>	Kneecap lanx limpet	Project not within known species range, or close enough to result in effects.
<i>Monadenia troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Shasta sideband snail	Project not within known species range, or close enough to result in effects.
<i>Monadenia troglodytes wintu</i>	Wintu sideband snail	Project not within known species range, or close enough to result in effects.
<i>Trilobopsis roperi</i>	Shasta chapparral snail	Project not within known species range, or close enough to result in effects.
<i>Trilobopsis tehamana</i>	Tehama chapparral snail	Project not within known species range, or close enough to result in effects.
<i>Vespericola pressleyi</i>	Pressley hesperian snail	Project not within known species range, or

		close enough to result in effects.
<i>Vespericola shasta</i>	Shasta hesperian snail	Project not within known species range, or close enough to result in effects.

## Appendix C - Forest Service Survey and Manage species

Common name	Scientific name	Pre-disturbance survey requirement?	Manage known sites requirement?	Determination of effects & rationale for determining need for pre-disturbance surveys	Also a USFS Region 5 Sensitive species?
INVERTEBRATES					
Nugget pebblesnail	<i>Fluminicola seminalis</i>	Y	Y	Project not within known species range, or close enough to result in potential effects.	Y
Klamath shoulder-band snail	<i>Helminthoglypta talmadgei</i>	N <sup>1</sup>	Y <sup>2</sup>	<p><i>H. talmadgei</i> occurs in stable rock talus and rockslides in limestone substrates, especially near springs or streams. On moist, north-facing slopes they can also occur under woody debris, moss and leaf mold. Overhead vegetative cover appears to be an important habitat element for shading and food (Duncan and others 1999; USDI Bureau of Land Management 1999).</p> <p>Extensive protection measures for riparian habitats have been incorporated into the project design. This will protect the damp areas that are important for this species, and greatly decrease the potential for negative effects to their habitats. The very limited intensity of proposed activities will also greatly limit potential effects to this species. As a result, project activities will not have any meaningfully measurable effect on the life requirements or habitat suitability for <i>H. talmadgei</i>, or on its persistence in the project area.</p> <p><i>H. talmadgei</i> is classified as a Category D Survey and Manage species. The management objective for</p>	N

<sup>1</sup> Formerly a Category A species requiring pre-disturbance surveys, it is now a Category D species not requiring pre-disturbance surveys.

<sup>2</sup> High-priority sites only.

Common name	Scientific name	Pre-disturbance survey requirement?	Manage known sites requirement?	Determination of effects & rationale for determining need for pre-disturbance surveys	Also a USFS Region 5 Sensitive species?
				these species is to “Identify and manage high-priority sites to provide for a reasonable assurance of species persistence.” Pre-disturbance surveys are not required for Category D species. Potential effects to known sites are minimized through application of the resource protection measures cited above.	
Siskiyou sideband snail	<i>Monadenia chaceana</i>	N	Y	Project not within known species range, or close enough to result in potential effects.	N
Shasta sideband snail	<i>Monadenia troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Y	Y	Project not within known species range, or close enough to result in potential effects.	Y
Wintu sideband snail	<i>Monadenia troglodytes wintu</i>	Y	Y	Project not within known species range, or close enough to result in potential effects.	Y
Shasta chaparral snail	<i>Trilobopsis roperi</i>	Y	Y	Project not within known species range, or close enough to result in potential effects.	Y
Tehama chaparral snail	<i>Trilobopsis tehamana</i>	Y	Y	Project not within known species range, or close enough to result in potential effects.	Y
Pressley (Big Bar) hesperian snail	<i>Vespericola pressleyi</i>	Y	Y	<p>This species occurs in conifer and/or hardwood forest habitats in permanently damp areas within 200 m. of seeps, springs, and stable streams, and uses woody debris and rock refugia near water during dry and cold periods. Recommended protection measures include conserving favorable canopy cover, woody debris and herbaceous vegetation in suitable habitats (Duncan and others 1999; USDI Bureau of Land Management 1999).</p> <p>Extensive protection measures for riparian habitats have been incorporated into the project design. These measures protect the permanently damp areas that are key habitats for this species, and greatly decrease the potential for negative effects to their habitats. The</p>	Y

Common name	Scientific name	Pre-disturbance survey requirement?	Manage known sites requirement?	Determination of effects & rationale for determining need for pre-disturbance surveys	Also a USFS Region 5 Sensitive species?
				<p>very limited intensity of proposed activities will also greatly limit potential effects to this species. As a result, project activities will not have any meaningfully measurable effect on the life requirements or habitat suitability for <i>V. pressleyi</i>, or on its persistence in the project area.</p> <p>Line officers have discretion to determine whether conditions warrant additional surveys based on the probability of the species being present on the project site, as well as the probability that the project would cause a significant negative effect on the species habitat or the persistence of the species at the site. Additional surveys for <i>V. pressleyi</i> were determined to be unwarranted due to the low intensity of proposed treatments and the extensive resource protection measures incorporated into the project design.</p>	
Shasta hesperian snail	<i>Vespericola shasta</i>	Y	Y	Project not within known species range, or close enough to result in potential effects.	Y
AMPHIBIANS					
Shasta salamander	<i>Hydromantes shastae</i>	Y	Y	Project not within known species range, or close enough to result in potential effects.	Y
BIRDS					
Great grey owl	<i>Strix nebulosa</i>	N	N	Project not within known species range, or close enough to result in potential effects.	N